The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at the Madison Parish Port Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Donald Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Latasha Griffin, Isaiah Ross, David Williams, Curt Collins and Luther Love

Commissioners absent: Robert Charles Brown

Other members present Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Marvin Collins (Terral River Service) & Jerry Hicks (Madison Parish Police Jury)

The meeting was opened by welcoming the new Board Member, Mr. Luther Love.

A public hearing was opened with discussions of the proposed Millage rates and Fiscal Year 2025 Budgets for the new year. Epps explained the proposed millage rates. Epps informed the board of the increase in budgets on certain line items. Commissioner Collins questioned the Workers Compensation rates, maintenance repairs and Legal & professional items. Epps informed the board that the increase was due to additional purchases and projects. She stated that within the 1st quarter of the Fiscal year she will provide the board with any changes required to modify the budget if needed. Commissioner Ross questioned the CD rates and the Bank that holds the CD(s). Epps provided the rates on each CD and the Bank name.

No further information was disclosed. The Public Hearing was adjourned with a motion given by Commissioner Ross and seconded by Commissioner Williams, to adjourn the Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Commissioner Griffin and seconded by Commissioner Ross on approving the previous meeting minutes on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. The minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Epps informed the board that a reimbursement from the Police Jury was received, the 1st invoice for the scale at Terral River Service which the remaining cost would be paid in 2025 and the first invoice for the electrical repairs at RailCar Co. The reimbursement request to DRA has been submitted for the repairs at RailCar Co. Epps stated that the Construction Fund has no activity due to no projects requiring the use of the account.

On motion given by Commissioner Ross and seconded by Commissioner Griffin, the financial reports were approved with no necessary changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Epps read the adjusted millage rate for Resolution #1 out loud. Attached copy.

On motion given by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to adopt the adjusted millage rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

Epps read the millage to set forth and roll forward rate for Resolution #2 out loud. Attached copy.

On motion given by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to adjust the millage rates and roll forward not exceeding the maximum authorized rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

On motion given by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve and adopt the 2025 FY Budgets as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

Secretary Epps informed the Board of the progression of the project with SEADD. She stated that an easement is required for the project and additional monies are required to match the project. Chairman Frazier questioned the location of the track and the use of the current rail from RailCar Co. Epps provided the location of the new rail and that RailCar Co., does utilize the current rail at their facility.

Secretary Epps informed the board of the status of repairs at RailCar Co. The repairs started on October 28 with the demolition in Bay C. A discussion was held between Epps, Militaru and Chris Patrick regarding the concerns that Dan voiced about the repairs on the project. The Project is still on track.

Epps discussed the requirements to update the Port Master plans. She stated that the information in the current plan is outdated, and she would have the Master plan digitized for future use by the Port.

Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Ross questioned the consultant and the fees. Epps stated that she has worked with Waxman and is comfortable with him.

On motion given by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioners Ross, to approve the proposal from Waxman Consultants. Motion carried unanimously.

Roll Call

YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

Commissioner Collins stated the hay storage project was axed. He added that he informed the person(s) that it would be best to find another location.

Secretary Epps informed the board of citizens interested in leasing Port property to hunt. The board tabled the subject and suggested speaking with the Port’s Attorney. The board expressed concerns about safety for everyone involved.

**Public comments: Jerry Hicks stated that areas around the region are receiving monies, but not Madison Parish. He asked how can we collectively change that? Hicks stated that in January a Zoom Call would take place with Travis Johnson and others to discuss the needs of the Parish. Commissioner Collins stated that big box companies are not coming to Madison Parish due to the limited amount of acreage that does not have a right of way. Commissioner Ross stated that before the zoom calls take place the Parish needs to prepare first. Commissioner Ross stated that a plan of action needs to be in place. Hicks expressed his concerns with the future of the Parish.**

**Marvin Collins stated that we all must work together.**

Secretary Epps asked for approval to purchase bags for the toy drive. The board approved the purchase.

There being no further business brought before the board; Chairman Frazier declared the meeting adjourned.

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer Chairman